



CITY COUNCIL

Nominations & Appointments Committee

**Monday, November 17, 2014
Meeting Report**

Attendance: S. Marmarou, D. Sterner

Others Attending: S. Katzenmoyer

The meeting was called to order at 4:09 pm by Mr. Marmarou.

I. Interviews

Kevin Graybill (appointment – Stadium Commission)

Mr. Marmarou questioned how Mr. Graybill learned about this position. Mr. Graybill stated that he is active with Reading American Little League (RALL) and was approached by Mr. Denbowski.

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Mr. Graybill was interested in serving on the Stadium Commission. Mr. Graybill stated that he always promotes baseball with youth and this would be an additional way to do that. He stated that the stadium is a beautiful park and he visits often during the season.

Mr. Marmarou questioned Mr. Graybill's computer skills. Mr. Graybill stated that he has computer knowledge and that he keeps up with current technology. He stated that he played with RALL in the 80's and 90's and has been coaching since 2009.

Mr. Sterner questioned Mr. Graybill's interest in sports. Mr. Graybill stated that he enjoys sports and that baseball is his favorite.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz arrived at this time.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the stadium is unique and questioned Mr. Graybill on how it fit into the community. Mr. Graybill stated that events are very interactive and they are always adding new activities.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned Mr. Graybill's opinion on the role of stadium commissioners. Mr. Graybill expressed the belief that commissioners would promote all events held at the stadium, help sell the R Phil's brand, and keep people interested in baseball and attending games.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked Mr. Graybill for his willingness to serve the City.

Mr. Marmarou explained that there are currently three openings on the Stadium Commission and four applicants. He stated that the Committee will interview all four applicants and then make a decision about the appointments.

Osmer Deming (appointment – Library Board)

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Mr. Deming was interested in serving on the Library Board. Mr. Deming stated that he uses the library frequently. He stated that the library is a City gem and needs support.

Mr. Sterner questioned if Mr. Deming was familiar with fundraising efforts by the Library Board. Mr. Deming stated that he is. He stated that he is aware of the City's consideration for a Library Tax and stated that he served as volunteer legal support for a local municipality that did not support its local library.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz expressed the belief that the library is a vital asset but stated that the City struggles to maintain core services. Mr. Deming stated that fundraising needs to continue. He noted the need to market the services of the library to the City's youth. He stated that if the youth feel this is a vital asset they will support it for the long term. He expressed the belief that if use increased, support will increase. He stated that both use and support must work together.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz explained that the present library building was erected with assistance of Andrew Carnegie. She noted the need for new philanthropists to step forward.

Mr. Sterner stated that the latest report from the Library Board indicated that use has increased.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that this position will be challenging as the Board works to make the library sustainable.

Mr. Deming stated that he has the time to commit to the effort.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the appointment of Osmer Deming to the Library Board.

Richard Spangler (appointment – Human Relations Commission)

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned Mr. Spangler's understanding of the role of the Commission. Mr. Spangler stated that he is involved with Reading Pride. He stated that the Commission works to support minorities. He stated that he gains personal satisfaction helping people and that he has the time to invest in the work of the Commission.

Mr. Sterner stated that he is glad that Mr. Spangler is willing to work to improve the City. Mr. Spangler stated that discrimination still exists and stated that he will work to correct this.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz requested samples of discrimination present in the LGBT area. Mr. Spangler stated that they are more subtle but still exist most especially in employment issues. He stated that improvement will take time.

Mr. Spangler stated that he worked with Mr. Lloyd on the LGBT rating system. He stated that he was glad to see the City's announcement about the rating system.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the appointment of Richard Spangler to the Human Relations Commission.

II. Other Matters

- RAWA appointments

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned if there was progress on determining who made appointments to RAWA. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she was unsure about the legal issue. She stated that Mr. Acosta and Mr. Spencer have been working together to name appointments.

Mr. Marmarou questioned where the three applicants were in the process. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that Mr. Roeberg is currently pending; Ms. Rodriguez had an issue that needs to be cleared up before she can move forward, and that she could not recall Mr. Hatt's status. (*Note: Mr. Hatt's application is in the queue for an interview at an upcoming meeting.*)

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz expressed concern that past members of RAWA were told not to ask questions and do as they were told. She stated that board members should not rubber stamp actions and noted the need to move forward with appointments cautiously. She stated that RAWA is currently being run like a private corporation. She noted the need to develop a job description for board members.

- Stadium Commission

Mr. Marmarou explained that there are four applicants for three positions. He noted the need for future appointments to be computer literate to assist with the work of the Commission. He stated that all applicants will be interviewed before appointments are made.

- Members needed

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the Housing Board of Appeals, Property Maintenance Board of Appeals and Business License Board of Appeals are in dire need of members.

There was a brief discussion of the 2015 budget, the amendment to the recovery plan and the City's pension obligations.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Shelly Katzenmoyer, CMC
Deputy City Clerk